

What is claimed is:

1. A method of stimulating a subterranean formation, comprising the steps of:  
placing a fluid comprising water and a formate ester in the formation; and  
permitting the fluid to react with the formation such that the permeability of a region of the formation is increased.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the water and the formate ester react to produce an acid.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the reaction between the water and the formate ester is delayed until the fluid has penetrated into a region of the subterranean formation to a desired extent.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the formate ester is selected from the group consisting of: ethylene glycol monoformate, ethylene glycol diformate, diethylene glycol diformate, glyceryl monoformate, glyceryl diformate, glyceryl triformate, triethylene glycol diformate and formate esters of pentaerythritol.
5. The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of placing an acid in the formation.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein the step of placing the acid in the formation is performed before the step of placing the fluid in the formation.
7. The method of claim 5 wherein the step of placing the acid in the formation is performed after the step of placing the fluid in the formation.
8. The method of claim 6 wherein the acid is selected from the group consisting of hydrochloric acid and acetic acid.
9. The method of claim 3 wherein the step of placing the fluid in the formation comprises injecting the fluid into the formation at a pressure sufficient to create or extend a fracture within the formation.
10. The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of producing a hydrocarbon from the formation.
11. The method of claim 10 wherein the hydrocarbon is selected from the group consisting of oil and gas.
12. The method of claim 3 wherein the formate ester is present in the fluid in an amount in the range of from about 5% to about 65% by weight of the water therein.

13. The method of claim 3 wherein the fluid further comprises a fluid loss control additive, a de-emulsifier, an anti-sludging agent, a corrosion inhibitor, an iron control agent, or a mixture thereof.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the fluid loss control additive comprises an aliphatic polyester, lactide, poly(lactide), poly(lactic acid), or a copolymer thereof.

15. The method of claim 3 wherein the formation comprises an acid-soluble component.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the acid soluble component is selected from the group consisting of: calcium carbonate and calcium magnesium carbonate.

17. The method of claim 13 wherein the fluid loss control additive is present in the fluid in an amount in the range of from about 0.1% to about 5% by weight of the fluid.

18. A fluid comprising water and a formate ester.
19. The fluid of claim 18 wherein the formate ester is present in the fluid in an amount in the range of from about 5% to about 65% by weight of the water therein.
20. The fluid of claim 18 wherein the formate ester is selected from the group consisting of: ethylene glycol monoformate, ethylene glycol diformate, diethylene glycol diformate, glyceryl monoformate, glyceryl diformate, glyceryl triformate, triethylene glycol diformate and formate esters of pentaerythritol.
21. The fluid of claim 18 further comprising a fluid loss control additive, a de-emulsifier, an anti-sludging agent, a corrosion inhibitor, an iron control agent, or a mixture thereof.
22. The fluid of claim 21 wherein the fluid loss control additive comprises an aliphatic polyester, lactide, poly(lactide), poly(lactic acid), or a copolymer thereof.
23. The fluid of claim 21 wherein the fluid loss control additive is present in an amount in the range of from about 0.1% to about 5% by weight of the fluid.